



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

July 2024

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

[sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org)

## SJBAS Monthly Meeting: July 10

The award-winning author, historian and SJBAS trip leader Andy Gulliford speaks on “The Cutting Edge of Conservation: Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology on the BLM’s National Conservation Lands.” Andy is professor of History and Environmental Studies at Ft Lewis College. Details are on [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org). 7 PM at the FLC Lyceum.

## President’s Message

June has been a very busy month with lots of archaeology events. The national preview of the film “Written on the Landscape: Mysteries Beyond Chaco Canyon” by Anna Sofaer of the Solstice Project was an outstanding success with attendance estimated by the manager of the FLC Community Concert Hall at 450 people. The film was well done and reflected perspectives from indigenous descendants of the creators of Chaco as well as numerous archaeologists who investigated sites in the canyon and surrounding regions. The Q&A panel afterwards was another



treat as they offered perspectives from professionals as well as indigenous elders on the film and related topics. Kudos to Janice Sheftel and Larry Ruiz for helping to arrange the preview!

Those of you who missed it or want to share it with others can find it [posted on YouTube](#).

In addition, Mary, Tish, and Susan staffed a table promoting SJBAS and a number of new memberships resulted. Our membership now exceeds 160 so we are well positioned in terms of budgeted expenditures.

The picnic was another successful June event with food, fun, and awards. Organized again by the McKibbens, this is their final year of five in that role and we seek someone to step up and take their place. Please consider volunteering. They have offered to help with the transition.

Personally, I have been involved in presentations at Chimney Rock NM where paleo-lithic technology demonstrations were held. It was a treat seeing kids eyes light up while making an arrowhead, getting a bow drill to make smoke or making glue from pine sap. Maybe there will be a future archaeologist or SJBAS member resulting from the events?

Trips! There are several coming up and one organized by Rusty; a tour of Chaco with a retired Chaco ranger could be an extraordinary experience. In addition, there is another trip involving the Crown Point rug auction. See the trip roster for contact info and trip details. There are several others this fall so check out the schedule. We are still awaiting word on a permit for the Bears Ears trip with Lyle. See the near-term Moki calendar below or go online for the full-year calendar.

Presentations! Dr Andy Gulliford will present in July. His talks are always enlightening and entertaining so attend if you can. It is free so bring a friend. Additionally, there will be a presentation at the Pine River Library on July 24th. We will promote the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society and cover the science of archaeology- what it is and what it is not, information on local publicly accessible sites. And a demo of paleo technology. – *Paul Landrum*

### Annual SJBAS Picnic a Hit with Everyone; even the Watermelon Atlatl Target

Several dozen members gathered at the Junction Creek Forest Service Pavilion for our annual celebration and re-acquaintance. Michelle and Mark McKibben did their usual outstanding job of preparation and cooking. Members brought delectable sides and desserts that made it a meal fit for the finest summer event.



In addition to atlatl throwing President Paul Landrum led everyone in a group thank you to Janice Sheftel for her amazing speaker chairmanship this year. The recent highlight was the near-capacity attendance event at the FLC concert hall in which Anna Sofaer previewed her latest film on Chaco Culture.



Hunter McCleary was recognized for finally snagging a trip to Keet Seel on his fifth try. Or was it for extricating himself from quicksand?

Our thanks again to the McKibbens who say they are retiring as social chair persons the end of the year. Thanks to Rusty for sharing pictures.

## Sand Canyon – Goodman Point Daytrip, June 8

Six SJBAS members met on June 8 for a day-trip led by Rusty Chamberlain to Goodman Point and Sand Canyon Pueblo. Under cooperating skies and temps, their first stop was the trail head to Goodman Point Pueblo. The parking lot for this Hovenweep National Monument outlier is not well marked. So, good directions or a clear map come in handy. Goodman point has been excavated but not “restored.” The village wall is quite distinct and one can identify what could be kivas or rooms.



Crow Canyon Archaeological Center conducted extensive excavations of Goodman Point in the 2000s. You may view [an artist’s rendering of what Goodman Point might have looked like](#) at the Crow Canyon web site. Their archeologists posit that Goodman Point and Sand Canyon Pueblo were part of an extended community.

After exploring Goodman Point, we headed a few miles west to the Sand Canyon trail head. The trail to the pueblo ruin is well marked and easy. Just like Goodman Point this village is at the head of a side canyon and on both sides of it. Both sides are surrounded by a wall which includes 14 D-shaped towers. The trail around and through the village includes informative signage





Like Goodman Point, Sand Canyon has a large D-shaped bi-walled building and a Great Kiva. We could see where they were. However, one needed a map of the village, which we had, and imagination to bring landscape and rubble to life. The path led to an open area at the edge of the canyon. From here we could see south down the canyon to bluff on the far side of McElmo Canyon.

We then backtracked to the head of the canyon to visit the other side. Again, this side is surrounded by a wall with D-shaped towers. This East side is different. It contains

room blocks and kivas, for sure, but no large community buildings like on the west side.

We returned to the trail head for lunch at the large picnic table in the shade. The lively conversation was mostly about other sites we have all visited.

Our posse included Rusty Chamberlain, Steve Harris, Andy Dennison, Stephen Bowers and Amy and Richard Hewitt. *–Rusty Chamberlain*

### Upcoming SJBAS Events for 2024

[Contact trip organizers for details.  
See [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org) for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]

<b>July 10</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting – “The Cutting Edge of Conservation: Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology on the BLM’s National Conservation Lands”</b> by Andy Gulliford, professor of History and Environmental Studies at Ft Lewis College. Lyceum, Center of SW Studies, 7 PM.
<b>July 24</b>	<b>“Introduction to La Plata area Archaeology; including a demonstration of Paleo Technology,”</b> presented by SJBAS’s Paul Landrum, Pine River Library, Bayfield, 6-7:30.
<b>August 14</b>	<b>SJBAS meeting – “Great Houses for Whom? Chacoan Monumental Architecture in Cognitive and Cross-Cultural Perspective”</b> by Robert Weiner, Ph.D.
<b>August 28</b>	<b>Hovenweep National Monument Outlier Towers –</b> One-day trip to Cutthroat Castle and Holly/Hackberry. A chance to speculate together on their function and cultural significance. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Andy Dennison at <a href="mailto:andrewdennison86@gmail.com">andrewdennison86@gmail.com</a> .

## Upcoming Signups for SJBAS Outings

[SJBAS instituted a signup system to firm up member commitment to our trips. Contact trip organizers for details. See [sjbas.org](http://sjbas.org) for the latest version of the full-year calendar.]

<b>May 1</b>	<b>Cedar Mesa Backcountry sites, Oct 8-10</b> – Pending BLM approval, three-day car-camping trip with day-hikes to a variety of Ancestral Puebloan sites. Difficulty: Hard. Limit of 12. Contact Lyle at <a href="mailto:lylehancock99@gmail.com">lylehancock99@gmail.com</a> .
<b>May 1</b>	<b>Crown Point Rug Auction and More, Sept 6-7</b> – This weekend trip includes lectures, a trading post visit, and the rug auction. Lodging and food are extra. Difficulty: Easy-active. Contact Bill Postler at <a href="mailto:postler.bill@gmail.com">postler.bill@gmail.com</a> .
<b>June 1</b>	<b>Hovenweep National Monument Outlier Towers, late August</b> – One-day trip to Painted Hand, Cutthroat Castle, Holly/Hackberry. A chance to speculate together on their function and cultural significance. Difficulty: Moderate. Contact Andy Dennison at <a href="mailto:andrewdennison86@gmail.com">andrewdennison86@gmail.com</a> .
<b>June 15</b>	<b>Chaco Culture National Historic Park Guided Tour and Car-Camping Trip</b> , led by retired NPS Ranger GB Cornucopia. Sept 26-28. Contact Rusty Chamberlain at <a href="mailto:chambrke@aol.com">chambrke@aol.com</a> for more info.

## Upcoming non-SJBAS Events

<b>July 2</b>	<b>“Gifts of LiDAR – Puebloan Berm-Swale Fields, Roads, and Racetracks of the Central Mesa Verde Region.”</b> Hosted by the Hisatsinom Chapter, Cortez. Hybrid meeting. <a href="#">See their web site</a> for details. 7 PM.
<b>July 18</b>	<b>“Envisioning a Cultural Landscape;”</b> this Old Pueblo Archaeology zoom features a program on cultural astronomy by Greg Munson. More information and a registration link are available <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>August 1-4</b>	<b>Pecos Conference</b> , Chino Valley, Arizona.
<b>August 8</b>	<b>“Autonomy: Core Element of the 1680 Pueblo Revolt,”</b> Crow Canyon zoom webinar. For more information and to register go <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>September 5</b>	<b>“Two Years of Zooarchaeological Research from the Northern Chaco Outliers Project,”</b> a Crow Canyon zoom webinar. Go <a href="#">here</a> for more info or to register.
<b>September 19</b>	<b>“Abandonment Issues? The Indigenous People of the Casas Grandes Valley and the Legacy of Paquimé,”</b> a Crow Canyon zoom webinar. For more info or to register go <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>September 27-29</b>	<b>Southwest Kiln Conference</b> , Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Cortez. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about making pottery the way the <i>Ancient Ones</i> did. Registration is free and it’s an easy day-trip. You may register and learn more <a href="#">here</a> .

## Briefs

**American Archaeology magazine highlights work on Amache Relocation Center.** You may read the article [here](#). SJBAS recently hosted Dr. Bonnie Clark and her groundbreaking work in the field. The SJBAS zoom recording of the February 2024 talk by Dr. Clark is archived [here](#). Moki reached out the Park Service about plans for their visitor center. They said it is years in the future. For now, you may visit the Amache Museum on downtown Grenada. It houses many objects donated by survivors and their families. Their web site is [here](#).

**University of Arizona takes heat for non-NAGPRA compliance.** UA was singled out on the floor of the US Senate for foot-dragging in repatriating Indigenous remains and sacred artifacts. According to an [article in Pinal Central](#), UA's Arizona State Museum claims they don't have an adequate budget, space or staffing to complete repatriation. Their goal is complete compliance by 2030.

**SW Megadrought of 12<sup>th</sup> Century Explored: Lessons for today?** Crow Canyon explores the decades-long drought that they say gets little attention compared to the one late in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A good five-minute read! [Here](#).

**Study by Indigenous Group Quantifies Indigenous Land Dispossession in Colorado.** *People of the Sacred Land* named ten tribes—including Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute—whose land was illegally taken since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, they also place a dollar figure of \$1.7 trillion on the appropriated lands and that the state has reaped \$546 million in mineral extraction. You may read more [here](#).

## Additional SJBAS Volunteer Opportunities

**Program Co-Chair:** We are looking for a volunteer to work with our Program Chair, Janice Sheftel. The Program Chair secures speakers for regular membership meetings and works with other SJBAS members to organize other lectures, such as the John W. Sanders Lecture. This is a Board position. Please contact Janice at [janicesheftel@gmail.com](mailto:janicesheftel@gmail.com) for more information.

**Membership Co-Chair:** The co-chair will work with Tish Varney and, eventually, move into the chair position. The Membership Chair is responsible for organizing recruitment of new SJBAS members and supporting Board members in encouraging active participation by members. This is a Board position. Please contact Tish Varney ([tishvarney@att.net](mailto:tishvarney@att.net)) for more information.

**Webmaster Assistant:** If you know your way around a computer, please consider volunteering to assist our Webmaster, Lyle Hancock, when he is unable to access a computer. The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining and updating the SJBAS website- [www.sjbas.org](http://www.sjbas.org). Please contact Lyle for more information, [lylehancock99@gmail.com](mailto:lylehancock99@gmail.com). Training and support will be provided for all positions.

We look forward to working with you! We need you!!

## SJBAS Elected Officers and Board Members

President	Paul Landrum
Vice President	Thomas Polich
Secretary	Susan Hicks
Treasurer	Mary Moorehead
Communications chair	Byron Kellogg
Membership chair	Tish Varney
Field Trip Program coordinator	Rusty Chamberlain
Education/PAAC representative	Betsy Moore
<i>Moki Messenger</i> editor	Hunter McCleary
Programming chair	Janice Sheftel
Publicity chair	Rusty Chamberlain
Social chair	Michelle and Mark McKibben
Webmaster	Lyle Hancock

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Individual dues drop to \$15 after June 30. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check for \$25 (\$50 family, \$10 student) payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form only to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.